

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Michael HOURN; Rodrigo VENTURA;  
John WILLIS and David WINBORNE

Examiner:  
Melvyn Andrews

Serial No: 09/831,355

Group Art Unit: 1742

Filed : May 14, 2001

For : METHOD FOR TREATING PRECIOUS  
METAL BEARING MINERALS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of June 19, 2002,  
please amend the above-noted application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 12, 13, 17 and 23 as shown on  
the marked-up set of claims. A clean copy of all pending claims  
is enclosed.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-24 are pending, and claims  
1, 17 and 23 have been amended.

The courtesies extended to applicants' representative  
during the interview of August 16, 2002, are acknowledged with  
appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 17 and 23 for the  
limitation of "any precious metal" and "gold", respectively. By  
this amendment, antecedents have been provided in the claims for  
these terms.

The Examiner rejected claims 22 and 24 as being  
anticipated by or obvious over Simmons (U.S. Patent 5,536,480)  
or Australian Patent No. 73192/87. Also, claims 1-24 were  
rejected as obvious over Australian Patent No. 73192/87 in view  
of Simmons. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

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